

# Barbara Mumby-Huerta

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## SUMMARY STATEMENT

Barbara Mumby Huerta is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and executive leader with more than three decades of experience advancing **ethical cultural practice, equity-centered grantmaking, and community-rooted institutional change.**

Her work spans public agencies, national foundations, and nonprofit cultural organizations, where she has stewarded multimillion-dollar funding portfolios, curated large-scale exhibitions, and designed trauma-informed frameworks that support artists and communities historically excluded from resources and decision-making

## EDUCATION

2016 Master of Business Administration / Nonprofit Administration  
John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, CA

2016 Master of Arts / Museum Studies  
John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, CA

2002 Bachelor of Arts / Native American Studies  
University of California, Berkeley, CA

2002 Bachelor of Arts / Studio Arts  
University of California, Berkeley, CA

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-present Adjunct Faculty, Art Department  
Ohlone College, Fremont, CA

2003-2004 Elementary Teacher  
Merced Unified School District, Merced, CA

2004-2006 Art Instructor  
The Enrichment Center, Merced, CA

2002-2004 Early Childhood Education Instructor  
Sacred Circle Childcare, Inc., Merced, CA

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Indigenous Intersectionality | Thoreau Center, Presidio | San Francisco, CA

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2024 Stories from the Edge of Town | Blackbird Bookstore and Gallery| San Francisco, CA

2024 Precious Beings | Oakland Asian Culture Center | Oakland, CA

2024 EXTINCTION: Save the Planet | Gallerium | online

2024 Seasons: Spring | Exhibizone | online

2024 Seize the Gaze | Curated by Susan Almazol | Joyce Gordon Gallery | Oakland, CA

2024 Manifest Differently | Curated by Kim Shuck, Megan Wilson, and Trisha Lagaso Goldberg | Minnesota Street Project | San Francisco, CA

2023 Indigenous | Curated by Joseph Abbati | California State Office Complex | San Francisco, CA

2023 Our 120-Year Legacy of Advocacy | California Nurses Association Annual Convention | Moscone Center | San Francisco, CA

2023 Pasion de Frida Annual Exhibition | Curated by Bird Levy | Puerto Alegre | San Francisco, CA

2020 Pasion de Frida Annual Exhibition | Curated by Bird Levy | Virtual | San Francisco, CA

2017 Night of Cultural Resistance | University of California | Berkeley, CA

2005 Native Life in Yosemite | Merced Multicultural Art Center | Merced, CA

2005 Art & Sole Exhibition | Merced Multicultural Art Center, Merced, CA

2005 Dia de Los Muertos | Curated by Rueben Salazar | Merced Multicultural Art Center | Merced, CA

2002 Genocide | Worth Ryder Gallery | Berkeley, CA

2002 Night of Cultural Resistance | University of California | Berkeley, CA

2001 Night of Cultural Resistance | University of California | Berkeley, CA

## COMMISSIONS

2023 "Our Matriarchs" | 144"x 198" Acrylic mural | Clarion Alley | San Francisco, CA

2007 "Dragon Notes" | 48"x48" acrylic and wood sculpture | Los Banos Public Library | Los Banos, CA

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

"Julia, the Basketmaker"

(2002) 36"x48," ink, charcoal, casein on arches paper

Native American Community Center, University of California, Berkeley, CA

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“Attempted Erasure”

(2002) 60”x72,” oil on canvas, acrylic transfer

Multicultural Community Center, University of California, Berkeley, CA

## CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2022 “Where the Waters Come Together” | Center for Native Arts and Culture | Portland, OR

2019 “The Continuous Thread: Celebrating Our Interwoven Histories” | Multiple Locations

San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery | San Francisco, CA

San Francisco International Airport | San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Public Library | San Francisco, CA

War Memorial Café | San Francisco, CA

2016 “World Airways” |Oakland Aviation Museum | Oakland, CA

2005 “Native Life in Yosemite” | Merced Multicultural Art Center, Merced, CA

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**1989 – present**

**Visual Artist / Curator | Barbara Mumby Studios**

Internationally regarded visual artist with expertise in a variety of mediums, including oils, acrylic, pastels, textiles, ceramics, metal, and wood.

**2012 – present**

**Consultant | Self-Employed**

Strategy and implementation consultant supporting individual artists and non-profit organizations. Expertise ranges from grant writing to facilitating long-term strategic planning. Skilled in implementing equity principles through a trauma-informed lens.

**2024 - present**

**Managing Director | Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco**

Leads organizational strategy, people programs, and cross-functional initiatives to strengthen community engagement and operational excellence. Develops and implements organization-wide project plans that align cultural programming, HR processes, and equity objectives.

- Partners with the leadership team to streamline workflows, enhance accountability, and drive clarity through consistent planning rhythms, milestone tracking, and performance reporting. Supports daily operations and leadership development for a growing team.
- Oversees a 60-year organizational archive to ensure long-term preservation, accessibility, and cultural continuity.
- Spearheaded revenue diversification efforts, increasing earned income by 500% within ten months.
- Oversee growing retail operations and retail buying for three locations.

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**2021 – 2022**

## **Vice President | Native Arts and Cultures Foundation**

Provided oversight to grantmaking programs and the development of a 40,000 square foot arts center, including an art gallery and on-site programming.

- Successfully opened the Center for Native Arts and Cultures with an inaugural exhibition and community-based programming while doubling the programs team.
- Developed and implemented policies and procedures, contracts, security systems, and curatorial vision and approach.
- Implemented a comprehensive evaluation initiative to assess current programs and engage communities on long-range program development.
- Obtained comprehensive funding to develop a trauma-informed, racial equity framework to inform both internal and external work.

**2019 – 2021**

## **Racial Equality Fellow | Open Society Foundation**

Developed a toolkit for Indigenous and marginalized communities to address, assess and challenge racist imagery in public art. Entitled “Dismantling Racism in Public Art” this tool provides insight and supports for communities navigating an often contentious and heavily bureaucratic process.

**2014 – 2020**

## **Director | Community Investments | San Francisco Arts Commission**

Responsible for the \$11 million-dollar grantmaking portfolio and managing the Street Artists Licensing Program, the nationally recognized Cultural Equity Grants program, the Cultural Centers Special Fund, WritersCorp Teaching Artists Residency, and the Arts Impact Endowment while leading a team of ten dedicated individuals. Specific highlights include:

- In partnership with constituents, reimagined the agency's approach to funding to increase accessibility, challenge power dynamics and increase representation of communities of color. This included leading the merger of four separate programs into a streamlined department grounded in principles of racial equity and trauma informed practices.
- Guided the program through a 60% budget increase over a period of five years and ensured that 80% of funding was allocated to marginalized communities.
- Created an innovative Cultural Ambassador Program to utilize community representatives and their expertise to provide outreach, cohort learning and coaching for grant seekers, resulting in a 100% increase of applicants.
- Championed racial equity by successfully advocating for a new staff position dedicated solely to racial equity issues, creating of a racial equity working group, and contributing to the development of a racial equity statement inclusive of an

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Indigenous land acknowledgement.

- Provided seed-funding and engaged the Native American community in the development of a Board of Directors and non-profit for an American Indian Cultural Center.
- Conceptualized and curated San Francisco's first citywide American Indian Initiative, entitled "The Continuous Thread: Celebrating our interwoven histories, identities and contributions". This consisted of hosting over 150 Indigenous Peoples in a two-day photo shoot on top of the empty Early Days statue plinth, multiple exhibitions of the portraits, and numerous celebrations to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Alcatraz Occupation.

## **2014- 2015 Collections and NAGPRA Intern | Oakland Museum of California**

Supported collections care for Native American & Pacific Islander artifacts and repatriation efforts to return sacred ancestors to their rightful home, including *Xhixhch'i S'aaxhw* (Frog Hat) to the Tlingit Haida Central Council.

## **2006 – 2014 Program Manager | Grants Manager | First 5 | Merced and Alameda Counties**

Managed \$20 million-dollar grant portfolios of large scale and complex programs to support marginalized children and their families through a trauma informed lens. This included the implementation, administration, and evaluation of federal, state and locally funded initiatives, such as:

- The Power of Preschool Program, providing free, quality preschool for over 1,600 children annually throughout seven school districts.
- The Parents as Teachers home visitation program, servicing 100 children and their families annually and the School Readiness intensive summer preschool programs in 11 school districts.
- The Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Initiative for early childhood education workforce development, including the development of an accredited curriculum tract for mono-lingual Spanish speakers.
- The development of a comprehensive marketing plan and execution of high-profile special events to engage policy makers and constituents.
- Implemented and successfully completed various trainings such as: Cognitive Coaching; Early Childhood Education Rating Scale (ECERS); and Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).

## **2004 – 2006 Program Director | Teaching Artist | Merced County Arts Council**

Developed all elements of the organization's artistic programming including budget oversight, fundraising, grants management, marketing, and volunteer coordination. Specific highlights include:

- Worked with a curatorial advisory committee to develop and implement quarterly exhibitions for the center's two-story gallery space and off-site locations.
- Developed a quarterly schedule of on-site arts classes and special events, which doubled under my leadership.

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- Managed relationships with seven school districts and supervised 60 teaching artists in multiple disciplines through ARTREE, a school-based arts education program.
- Provided oversight to the Enrichment Center, an arts-based day program offering skill enhancement activities for approximately 25 adults with learning and developmental disabilities.
- Worked with school districts in providing curriculum development support for K-12 students and adult learning while teaching numerous courses: from art history to studio arts.
- Designed and executed a multi-year James Irvine grant, annually hosting 2,500 students in interactive and culturally appropriate art workshops that supported appropriate grade level curriculum in thematic topics such as “The Underground Railroad,” “California Indians,” and “The History and Culture of the Hmong.”

## **2002 – 2012 Executive Director | ECE Educator | Sacred Circle, Inc.**

Founded and developed the 501(c)3 organization to provide culturally appropriate and trauma informed care for Indigenous children in foster care.

- Provided oversight and instruction to children attending childcare center.
- Worked with school districts to introduce historically accurate and culturally appropriate curriculum about Native Americans.

## **2000 – 2002 Program Manager | Cross-Cultural Student Development | UC Berkeley**

Responsible for providing responsive artistic and cultural programming to address issues affecting marginalized communities while promoting coalition building and cultural understanding.

## **SELECTED WRITINGS**

2022 “The Continuous Thread: Celebrating our Interwoven Histories, Identities and Contributions.” Stanford Humanities Today, Arcade.

<https://shc.stanford.edu/arcade/interventions/continuous-thread-celebrating-our-interwoven-histories-identities-and>

2016 “Returning the Sacred: International Repatriation of Native North American Cultural Property.”

Master’s Thesis, John F. Kennedy University, Berkeley, CA

ABSTRACT: Using scholarship, case studies, and interviews with museum professionals and Native Americans/First Nations People, this master’s project explores the historical, cultural, and political issues related to the repatriation of cultural property located in United Kingdom museums. Asking the question, “How do tribal communities and museums work together to repatriate cultural property internationally,” findings reveal that the key to successful repatriations is through relationship building rather than relying upon ineffectual international accords. Recommendations include the development of universal repatriation policies, a comprehensive inventory of indigenous collections, and the amendment of key laws while providing for legal compulsion to follow international accords.

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2014 "The Adoption Museum Project: The Museum as a Vehicle for Social Change." California Association of Museums, San Francisco, CA  
<https://app.box.com/s/u8zzsi9fcv8yezdnrymw4wmc8vfp4d9>

**ABSTRACT:** The story of adoption touches the lives of over 60% of the U.S. population: transcending ethnicity, race, culture, religion, gender identity and socio-economic status while touching upon social issues such as racism, civil rights, immigration, and reproductive justice. Founded in 2013 by Laura Callen, the Adoption Museum Project strives to explore these social issues and the personal stories of adoption in a public space by using multiple forms of expression. With a mission to catalyze conversations about adoption that supports positive social change, the Adoption Museum Project is poised to support a shift in how society views all the issues that encompass adoption as well as challenge the way we consider museums.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

**2019      The Continuous Thread American Indian Initiative | San Francisco Arts Commission | San Francisco**  
Conceptualized, curated, and implemented San Francisco's first citywide American Indian Initiative to celebrate the culture and contributions of local Indigenous Peoples. Spanning three months, The Continuous Thread: Celebrating Our Interwoven Histories, Identities and Contributions included over 20 public events including four exhibitions, a temporary light art project, community celebrations, concerts, a film festival, a fashion show and more. The ambitious Initiative coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz, the one-year anniversary of the City's first Indigenous Peoples Day and the anniversary of the removal of the Early Days sculpture in the Civic Center after decades of community objections to its racist and historically inaccurate content. Citywide Initiative hosted at multiple venues, San Francisco, CA

**2018 – 2020 Cultural Ambassador Program | San Francisco Arts Commission | San Francisco**  
Conceptualized and Implemented the Cultural Ambassador program to increase awareness among marginalized communities as an effort to increase applications and success rate for grant seekers. This program utilizes key community influencers from disparate communities for targeted outreach and application support. The first year of the program saw a 100 percent increase in applicants from targeted communities.

**2017 – 2020 Artistic Legacy Grant | San Francisco Arts Commission | San Francisco**  
Conceptualized and implemented the Artistic Legacy Grant (ALG) to acknowledge the impact of an artistic director that has served an organization consistently for 25 years or more. The awarded recipient is a proven and vital member of their respective community(ies) and has a history of working to educate the broader community on the importance of their culture and/or artistic genre.

**2009 – 2011 Hands on Heroes Award | First 5 Merced County | Merced, CA**  
Conceptualized and implemented the annual, "Hands on Heroes" award program to acknowledge individuals or businesses in the community who are

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advocates for children in ways that embody Merced County's Children's Bill of Rights. These individuals work tirelessly, bravely overcome adversity and everyday challenges, and are seldom acknowledged for their efforts.

**2008-2011**

**Children's Summit | First 5 Merced County | Merced, CA**

Led the planning and implementation of a multi-agency effort to highlight the importance of investing in young children and their families. This conference included policy makers, administrators, educators, social services, and law enforcement and was attended by approximately 500 people each year.

**2001 – 2002**

**Night of Cultural Resistance | University of California | Berkeley, CA**

Co-conceptualized and implemented the University of California, Berkeley's annual, "Night of Cultural Resistance," a unique event that brings different communities together in a purposeful way to engage with one another and experience live performances, artmaking, food and various other activities to celebrate resilience and honor the ways in which communities of color continue to resist oppression and work toward liberation.

**2001-2002**

**Breaking the Cycle, Mending the Circle Annual Conference | University of California | Berkeley, CA**

Conceptualized and implemented the University of California, Berkeley's annual conference with themes of "The Prison Industrial Complex" and "Contemporary Issues of Genocide."

## PRESENTATIONS / LECTURES / SYMPOSIA

Feb 2024 "Manifest Destiny: Its Origins and Persistence" | Facilitation and Panel Presentation | Minnesota Street Project | San Francisco, CA

April 2023 "From Noble Savage to a Vanishing Race: The Price of Playing Indian" Panel Presentation | Yerba Buena Center for the Arts | San Francisco, CA

March 2023 "Beyond Land Acknowledgements: Indigenous Protocols" | Facilitation and Panel Presentation | Yerba Buena Center for the Arts | San Francisco, CA

March 2023 "The Land Back Movement"  
Moderation of Virtual Film Series  
Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at The New School and the American Indian Film Institute

March 2022 "Carrying the Spirits of the People"

Virtual Presentation

The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA

Dec 2021 "Native Arts and Culture: Resilience, Reclamation and Relevance"

Virtual Presentation

Wyoming Arts Summit Presentation, Wyoming Arts Council, WY

Feb 2021 "Art and the Racial Divide: Leveling the Playing Field in Racial Equity" Virtual Presentation

San Francisco Arts Commission and Kua'aina Associates, San Francisco, CA

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Feb 2021 "The Arts as a Vehicle for Transformation: Moving from Trauma to Healing" Virtual Presentation  
Rootwork Speakers Series, National Guild for Community Arts Education, New York, NY Nov 2019 "The Struggle of Dawning Intelligence: The Removal of San Francisco's Early Days Monument"  
Conference Presentation  
ARCS Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Sept 2019 "The Continuous Thread Initiative and the impact of Public Art on Communities of Color." Presentation  
Creative Cities Working Group, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

March 2019 "Advancing Reconciliation, Equity, and Accessibility in Grantmaking."  
Panel Presentation  
Creative City Strategy Symposium, Vancouver, British Columbia

Feb 2019 "Story Summit: Returning the Sacred and The Tlingit Frog Hat"  
Panel Presentation

California Association of Museums Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

Oct 2018 "A Step Beyond Capitalization: Trauma Informed Philanthropy"  
Panel Moderator and Presenter  
Grantmakers in the Arts Annual Conference, Oakland, CA

Sept 2018 "Exploring the Politics of Memory."  
Panel Presentation  
Smithsonian's National Museum of American Indian, San Francisco, CA

May 2017 "Standing Rock and Beyond"  
Panel Presentation  
Earth Week, Chabot College, Hayward, CA

March 2017 "Addressing Equity Within Grant Making Programs."  
Keynote Presentation

Monterrey County Arts Council 3rd Annual Summit: Diversity and Equity in the Arts

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Oct 2016 "Moving Forward: Reflecting on the Past to Better Understand Ways to Create Meaningful Relationships between Museums and Indigenous Communities"  
Panel Presentation  
Western Museums Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ

Oct 2015 "Building Collective Capital: A Funders Collaborative Approach to Capitalization" Panel Presentation  
Grantmakers in the Arts Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA

## AWARDS & HONORS

2023 California Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship

2019 Open Society Racial Equality Fellowship

2019 City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors Commendation

2016 The Ted Greenberg Award for Outstanding Scholarship  
2015 Wanda Chin Professional Development Scholarship  
2014 California Association of Museums Fellowship

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2014 Indigenous Archives, Libraries & Museums Scholarship

2000 Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship

2000 Educational Opportunity Program Award, University of California, Berkeley

## PANELIST / JUROR

2023 San Mateo County Arts Commission

2021 Doris Duke Artist Awards

2021 Oregon Arts Commission, Arts Build Communities

2018 San Mateo County Arts Commission

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

2024 Hewitt, Vita. "The Empowering Artists at Manifest Differently." *Broke-Ass Stuart*, March 14, 2024.

2024 Blue, Max. "Artists Tackle Colonialism, White Supremacy in SF Show." *SF Examiner*, March 11, 2024.

2023 Waldron, Kelly. "People We Meet: Barbara Mumby Paints a Tribute." *Mission Local*, September 23, 2023.

2023 MediaWize. "Barbara Mumby Discusses the Ethics of Public Art in Relation to Native Americans." *OCNJ Daily*, January 23, 2023.

2022 Vondersmith, Jason. "Center for Native Arts and Cultures Opens in Southeast Portland." *Portland Tribune*, April 22. 2022.

2022 Burris, Emily. "Native Art Exhibit Explores Where the Waters Come Together." *KOIN*, April 22, 2022.

2022 Indigenous Artists Preserve Culture, Initiate Social Change." *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 13, 2022.

2021 Lonetree, Amy. "Decolonizing Museums, Memorials, and Monuments." *University of California Press*, November 1, 2021.

2021 Contributor. "Questioning Power and Repairing Harm: Addressing Cultural Appropriation in Our History." *Camp Fire* <https://campfire.org/blog/article/ending-cultural-appropriation-in-camp-fire/>, May 2, 2021.

2021 Farrell, Jonathan. "Art As a Means of Healing, Empowerment, and Transformation." *Medium*, February 23, 2021.

2019 Contributor. "California Arts Council Announces Results of Community-Led Meeting

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Emphasize Need for State Support of Native American and Indigenous Artists in California.”  
Sierra Sun Times, November 20, 2019.

2019 Xinhua. “Native Americans Celebrate Indigenous People’s Day in San Francisco.”  
Xinhuanet.com, October 14, 2019.

2019 Li, Grace. “Native Americans Reclaim Space in The Continuous Thread.” SF Weekly,  
October 9, 2019.

2019 Didion, Timothy. “Art Exhibit in San Francisco Aims to Right Cultural Wrong.” ABC7,  
October 4, 2019.

2019 Nelson, Joshua. “School Board Votes to Paint Over George Washington Mural in San  
Francisco.” The National Interest, July 20, 2019.

2019 Lefebvre, Sam. “This is Reparations:’ SF School Board Votes to Paint Over Controversial  
High School Mural.” KQED, June 25, 2019

2019 Contributor. “Native Americans Reclaim Space Where Racist Statue Once Stood.” El  
Tecolote, April 25, 2019.

2019 Rosato Jr., Joe. “San Francisco Photo Project Replaces Controversial Statue with Living  
American Indians.” NBC Bay Area, April 12, 2019.

2018 Blei, Daniela. “San Francisco’s Early Days Statue is Gone. Now Comes the Work of  
Activating Real History.” Smithsonian Magazine, October 4, 2018.

2018 Brinklow, Adam. “San Francisco Removes Civic Center Statue.” Curbed San Francisco,  
September 14, 2018.

2018 Moore, Martha. “In Wake of Charlottesville, New Scrutiny for Native American Statues.”  
Stateline, July 27, 2018.

2018 Katz, Brigit. “San Francisco Votes to Remove Statue with Racist Depiction of Native  
Americans.” Smithsonian Magazine, March 7, 2018.

2018 Gonzales, Richard. “San Francisco To Remove 19<sup>th</sup> Century Statue Critics Say  
Degrades Native Americans.” NPR News, March 6, 2018.

2018 Contributor. “San Francisco Will Remove 19<sup>th</sup> Century Statue Some Call Racist.” East  
Bay Times, March 6, 2018.

2018 NPR. “San Francisco to Remove 19<sup>th</sup> Century Statue Critics Say Degrades Native  
Americans.” Colorado Public Radio, March 6, 2018.

2018 Har, Janie. “San Francisco Will Remove Pioneer Statue That Some Call Racist.” KQED,  
March 5, 2018.

2017 Ryce, Walter. “People in the Creative Sector Converge in Salinas for a Council on

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the Arts." Monterey County Weekly, April 6, 2017.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Visual Arts: Oil, Acrylic, Pastels
- Figure Drawing
- Sculpture: Textiles, Ceramics, Wood, Metal
- Curation
- Museum Collections Care
- Native American History & Culture
- Public Speaking
- Community Engagement
- Equity Frameworks
- Trauma-Informed Principles
- Team Leadership
- Program Design
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- Nonprofit Management
- Evaluation
- Budget Development & Management
- Grants Management
- Facility Management
- Architectural Design
- Event Planning & Implementation
- Teaching, Training and Coaching
- Early Childhood Education